means for positioning the spheres at spaced apart locations along substantially the entire length of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter.

2. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 1 wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a mesh tube formed from a polymeric material and extending along the axis of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter for receiving and positioning the spheres therein.

3. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 2 wherein the mesh tube is formed from a polymeric material having memory whereby the mesh tube is expanded to initially receive the spheres therein and contracts as the diameters of the spheres are reduced as the water treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres is dissolved into the water flowing through the cylindrical filter.

4. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 1 wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a coil spring formed from a polymeric material and extending along the axis of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter and wherein the spheres are received between adjacent coils comprising the spring.

5. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 4 wherein the coil spring is formed from a polymeric material having memory whereby the distance between adjacent coils of the spring expands to receive the spheres therebetween and contracts as the water

treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres is dissolved into the water flowing through the cylindrical water filter.

6. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 1 wherein each of the spheres has a passageway extending diametrically therethrough and wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a rod formed from a polymeric material and having the spheres supported at spaced apart intervals thereon.

7. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 6 wherein the passageways through the spheres are characterized by a predetermined inside diameter and wherein the rod is characterized by a predetermined outside diameter which is sufficiently larger than the inside diameter of the spheres to prevent the spheres from moving relative to the rod.

8. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 6 further including a plurality of spacers mounted on the rod and positioned between adjacent spheres moumted thereon.

9. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 6 wherein the rod has a plurality of radially extending protrusions formed thereon, wherein the radially extending protrusions are located at spaced apart intervals along the length of the rod, and wherein the spheres are engaged with the protrusions to prevent relative movement between the spheres and rod.

10. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 9 wherein the spheres are molded around the radially extending protrusions of the rod.

11. (Previously presented) A water treatment system comprising:

a cylindrical filter having an axis and having a cylindrical exit passageway extending along the axis;

the cylindrical exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter being characterized by a predetermined inside diameter and a predetermined length;

a plurality of spheres each formed from a predetermined water treatment chemical agent and each having an outside diameter which is less than the inside diameter of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter; and

means for securing the spheres at spaced apart locations along substantially the entire length of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter.

12. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 11 wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a mesh tube formed from a polymeric material and extending along the axis of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter for receiving and positioning the spheres therein.

13. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 12 wherein the mesh tube is formed from a polymeric material having memory whereby the mesh tube is expanded to initially receive the spheres therein and contracts as the diameters of the spheres are reduced as

the water treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres is dissolved into the water flowing through the cylindrical filter.

14. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 11 wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a coil spring formed from a polymeric material and extending along the axis of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter and wherein the spheres are received between adjacent coils comprising the spring.

15. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 14 wherein the coil spring is formed from a polymeric material having memory whereby the distance between adjacent coils of the spring expands to receive the spheres therebetween and contracts as the water treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres is dissolved into the water flowing through the cylindrical water filter.

16. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 11 wherein each of the spheres has a passageway extending diametrically therethrough and wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a rod formed from a polymeric material and having the spheres supported at spaced apart intervals thereon.

17. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 16 wherein the passageways through the spheres are characterized by a predetermined inside diameter and wherein the rod is characterized by a predetermined outside diameter which is sufficiently larger than the inside diameter of the spheres to prevent the spheres from moving relative to the rod.

18. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 16 further including a plurality of spacers mounted on the rod and positioned between adjacent spheres mounted thereon.

19. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 16 wherein the rod has a plurality of radially extending protrusions formed thereon, wherein the radially extending protrusions are located at spaced apart intervals along the length of the rod, and wherein the spheres are engaged with the protrusions to prevent relative movement between the spheres and rod.

20. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 19 wherein the spheres are molded around the radially extending protrusions of the rod.

21. (Previously presented) A water treatment system comprising:

a cylindrical filter having an axis and having a cylindrical exit passageway extending along the axis;

the cylindrical exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter being characterized by a predetermined inside diameter and a predetermined length;

a plurality of spheres each formed from a predetermined water treatment chemical agent and each having an outside diameter which is less than the inside diameter of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter; and

a mesh tube formed from a polymeric material positioned within the exit passageway of the cylindrical filter and extending along the axis thereof for receiving the spheres and for retaining the spheres at predetermined spaced apart locations along substantially the entire length of the exit passageway of the cylindrical water filter.

22. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 21 wherein the cylindrical mesh tube is formed from a polymeric material having memory which expands to initially receive the spheres and which contracts as the water treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres dissolves into the water flowing through the cylindrical filter.

23. (Canceled)

23 ~~24~~. (Currently amended) In a water treatment system of the type including a cylindrical water filter having an axis and a predetermined length, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of spheres each formed from a predetermined water treatment chemical agent; and

means for positioning the spheres at spaced apart locations along substantially the entire length of the cylindrical water filter and in the path of water flowing therethrough;

~~The water treatment system according to claim 23 wherein~~ the sphere positioning means ~~comprises~~ comprising a mesh tube formed from a polymeric material for receiving and positioning the spheres therein.

24 ~~25~~. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 23 ~~24~~ wherein the mesh tube is formed from a polymeric material having memory whereby the mesh tube is expanded to initially receive the spheres therein and contracts as the diameters of the spheres are reduced as

the water treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres is dissolved into the water flowing through the cylindrical filter.

25
~~26~~. (Currently amended) In a water treatment system of the type including a cylindrical water filter having an axis and a predetermined length, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of spheres each formed from a predetermined water treatment chemical agent; and

means for positioning the spheres at spaced apart locations along substantially the entire length of the cylindrical water filter and in the path of water flowing therethrough;

~~The water treatment system according to claim 23 wherein~~ the sphere positioning means comprises a coil spring formed from a polymeric material and wherein the spheres are received between adjacent coils ~~comprises~~ comprising the spring.

26
~~27~~. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 25 ~~26~~ wherein the coil spring is formed from a polymeric material having memory whereby the distance between adjacent coils of the spring expands to receive the spheres therebetween and contracts as the water treatment chemical agent comprising the spheres is dissolved into the water flowing through the cylindrical water filter.

27
~~28~~. (Currently amended) In a water treatment system of the type including a cylindrical water filter having an axis and a predetermined length, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of spheres each formed from a predetermined water treatment chemical agent; and means for positioning the spheres at spaced apart locations along substantially the entire length of the cylindrical water filter and in the path of water flowing therethrough.

The water treatment system according to claim 28 wherein each of the spheres has a passageway extending diametrically therethrough and wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a rod formed from a polymeric material and having the spheres supported at spaced apart intervals thereon;

~~The water treatment system according to claim 28 wherein~~

each of the spheres ~~has~~ having a passageway extending diametrically therethrough; and

wherein the sphere positioning means comprises a rod formed from a polymeric material and having the spheres supported at spaced apart intervals thereon.

28 ~~29~~. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 27 ~~28~~ wherein the passageways through the spheres are characterized by a predetermined inside diameter and wherein the rod is characterized by a predetermined outside diameter which is sufficiently larger than the inside diameter of the spheres to prevent the spheres from moving relative to the rod.

29 ~~30~~. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 27 ~~28~~ further including a plurality of spacers mounted on the rod and positioned between adjacent spheres mounted thereon.

30 ~~31~~. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim 27 ~~28~~ wherein the rod has a plurality of radially extending protrusions formed thereon, wherein the radially extending

protrusions are located at spaced apart intervals along the length of the rod, and wherein the spheres are engaged with the protrusions to prevent relative movement between the spheres and rod.

~~32~~ 31. (Previously presented) The water treatment system according to claim ~~31~~ 30 wherein the spheres are molded around the radially extending protrusions of the rod.